

supplemental appropriation. I personally voted for every dollar the President said is needed for military supplies and equipment for the Iraqi security force training, for economic development in that country, and for social rehabilitation.

My colleague, Senator COLEMAN, and I added funding that had been overlooked to help pay for those American heroes who are serving over there to travel home to see their families during their 2-week leave in the middle of what has become a 12-month or 18-month or indefinitely extended tours of duty.

Senator BOB GRAHAM saw to it that the wounded soldiers wouldn't have to pay for their own hospital meals during their recuperations. Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and Senator TOM DASCHLE tried to extend the health care coverage that is provided to reservists and National Guard men and women and their families to make it year round, since their service in certainly incredibly increasing numbers of cases have become year round, and subject to that at a moment's notice. I was a proud cosponsor of that legislation. It was opposed by the administration. Despite that opposition, last year we were partially successful, and we are going to be trying to accomplish the rest this year.

Most of my caucus and quite a number of my Republican colleagues have also voted several times to restore the funding cuts that the administration proposed for the VA health system which is even now seriously overloaded.

When with no forewarning and apparently with very little foreknowledge, heavy fighting escalated from where it was before in Iraq and erupted where it was not before; when American forces are suffering their highest casualties in the years since President Bush flew onto the aircraft carrier *Abraham Lincoln* and proclaimed "mission accomplished;" when 20,000 of our troops, our constituents, the families in our States were told they were literally packing up and heading for home, and then told they must stay for an indefinitely extended period; then we in the Senate Armed Services Committee meeting

this week are told by the Deputy Secretary of Defense that "the increase in violence was not entirely unexpected;" it is hard to reconcile what has occurred.

Just 3 weeks earlier—just hours, in fact, before the four American contractors were ambushed and massacred and then part of hell broke loose over there—those expectations were not mentioned in a briefing we attended. They weren't even suggested. When I made that point—I didn't ask in that briefing about Fallujah—well, what about it now? "Unsettled," I was told this week but U.S. forces will soon secure the city.

The next morning they published a report that a:

Senior American officer in Fallujah was quoted as saying "We have the potential to turn it into the Alamo, if we get it wrong."

The Alamo? That was pretty unsettling, as I recall from my history books, and it kept getting worse thereafter.

Again at a hearing, I queried that there have been reports that Iraqi forces which we have been paying \$1 billion through supplemental appropriations to supposedly train and equip so they can fight and protect their own country and our men and women can come home, there were reports some of them in the last couple of weeks—many of them—would not fight, that they ran away and even left our guns and equipment to be used by the insurgents to try to kill our own forces. How many did so? In other words, how effective has our training been? Didn't know. Estimated maybe 5 to 10 percent.

That very night I read in an article I overlooked in a morning paper, that same day an American general who was in Iraq put the percentage of Iraqi forces who failed to fight at 40 percent; 40 percent of our supposed allies were not allies when needed and 40 percent of our equipment is being used against our own troops.

The question I most want to be answered is, What is your current timetable for bringing our troops home? They are showing a big chart at the hearing for the timetable of the trans-

fer of political responsibilities and government authority. It is quite detailed. It went through 2004, 2005, and into 2006. What, then, I asked, is the timetable for the transition of military responsibility to the Iraqis? No answer, not even in the closed session following. What is the United States force level now projected in 6 months, in 12 months in Iraq? No answer.

Surely these projections are being made. Nobody likes to predict in public what the uncertain future might hold, but we have a right to know. More importantly, the American people have a right to know. These are their sons and daughters over there on the orders of their Commander in Chief and they deserve to be told the truth. We are not even being told how much money the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan is expected to cost in the next fiscal year, which starts in 5 months.

We cannot even find out when the \$87 billion we appropriated last October will run out. That is ridiculous. After all, whose money is it? Whose Government is it? It is our Government, all of us here and all of the American people, we are all in this together for better or for worse. We will pay for it or avoid paying for it together. We will benefit from an improved world or suffer from the reported unprecedented Arab hatred toward America. We will do that together. Our lives and our children's lives, our beloved Nation's future, will all be affected for many years profoundly by what is being done in our names and by the results and consequences that have occurred.

Please, tell the truth, Mr. President, the real truth, the whole truth, and we will face it together.

I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
APRIL 26, 2004, AT 1 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until Monday, April 26, 2004, at 1 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 26, 2004, at 1 p.m.